



# BIOGRAPHY

## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

**354th Fighter Wing Public Affairs, 354 Broadway Ave Unit 15A, Eielson AFB AK 99702-1895**  
Comm: (907) 377-2116; DSN: (317) 377-2116; Fax: 377-1412

### COLONEL BENNETT M. BITLER

Colonel Bennett M. Bitler is the vice commander of the 354th Fighter Wing, Eielson AFB, Alaska. The 354 FW trains and provides A/OA-10s, F-16C, tactical air control and combat support forces to Combatant Commanders anytime, anyplace, in support of U.S. national security objectives. The 354 FW hosts Pacific Air Forces' premier national and multinational large force training exercise, Cope Thunder, held up to four times annually. As the Air Force's most northern operational wing, the 354 FW is also the home of Air Education and Training Command's Arctic Survival School.

Colonel Bitler entered the Air Force in 1978 as a graduate of the Air Force ROTC program at Grove City College, Pa. He has served as an engineer, F-16 pilot, instructor pilot, staff officer for Headquarters Air Force and NATO, and as a squadron commander. He is a command pilot with more than 2,600 hours in F-16 and A-10 aircraft.



### EDUCATION

- 1978 Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering, Grove City College, Grove City, Pa.
- 1982 Squadron Officer School (residence), Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 1991 Master of Military Arts and Science in National Security Studies, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.
- 1991 Army Command and General Staff College (residence), Fort Leavenworth, Kan.
- 1994 Armed Forces Staff College (residence), Norfolk, Va.
- 1999 National War College (residence), Fort McNair, Washington, D.C.
- 1999 Master of Science in National Security Strategy, National War College, Fort McNair, Washington, D.C.

### ASSIGNMENTS

- June 1978 – December 1980, mechanical engineer, Arnold AFS, Tullahoma, Tenn.
- January 1981 – November 1981, student pilot, Williams AFB, Ariz.
- December 1981 – December 1985, T-38 evaluator pilot, assistant flight commander, check pilot, instructor pilot, Williams AFB, Ariz.
- January 1986 – August 1986, student, F-16 Replacement Training Unit, Luke AFB, Ariz.
- August 1986 – May 1989, F-16 pilot, flight commander, 33rd Tactical Fighter Squadron, Shaw AFB, S.C.
- May 1989 – May 1990, F-16 instructor pilot, chief of wing training, flight commander, 8th Tactical Fighter Wing, Kunsan AB, Korea.
- June 1990 – June 1991, student, Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.
- June 1991 – March 1993, air operations officer, Headquarters USAF, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
- March 1993 – April 1995, action officer, Joint Operations Division, Joint Staff, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
- April 1995 – August 1996, assistant operations officer, 61st Fighter Squadron, Luke AFB, Ariz.

- August 1996 – July 1998, Commander, 56th Operations Support Squadron, F-16 instructor pilot, Luke AFB, Ariz.
- July 1998 – June 1999, student, National War College, Fort McNair, Washington, D.C.
- July 1999 – August 1999, deputy chief of staff, Plans and Operations, Sixth Allied Tactical Air Forces, Izmir, Turkey.
- September 1999 – June 2000, deputy director of operations, Combined Air Operations Center Six, Eskisehir, Turkey
- July 2000 – June 2001, executive officer to the commander, United States Air Forces in Europe, Ramstein AB, Germany
- June 2001 – May 2003, commander, 27th Operations Group, 27th Fighter Wing, Cannon AFB, N.M.
- July 2003 – present, vice commander, 354th Fighter Wing, Eielson AFB, Alaska.

### **FLIGHT INFORMATION**

Rating: Command Pilot  
 Flight hours: More than 2,600  
 Aircraft flown: T-38, F-16, A-10

### **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

Defense Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster  
 Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters  
 Air Force Commendation Medal  
 Joint Service Achievement Medal  
 Air Force Achievement Medal  
 National Defense Service Medal

### **EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION**

Second Lieutenant	June 1978
First Lieutenant	June 1980
Captain	June 1982
Major	May 1989
Lieutenant Colonel	August 1994
Colonel	March 2000

*(Current as of January 2004)*